

US Army Corps of Engineers

Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.: TS-200100940

EVALUATOR: Mr. Tim Scott

PHONE NO.: (601) 631-7528

FAX NO.: (601) 631-5459

E-MAIL: regulatory@mvk02.usace.army.mil

DATE: February 15, 2001

EXPIRATION DATE: March 7, 2001

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Office of Environmental Services are considering an application for a Department of the Army permit and State water quality certification for the work described herein. A water quality certification is required in accordance with statutory authority contained in the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Title 30, Chapter 11, Part IV, Section 2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217). Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, ATTN: CEMVK-OD-F, at the above address and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division, Post Office Box 82135, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has additional information on file in their office in Baton Rouge and may be inspected at any time between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Copies may be obtained from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality upon payment of cost of printing. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will make a final decision on the water quality certification pertaining to this application within 30 days after expiration of this notice.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit</u>: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which applies to structures or work in navigable waters of the United States and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:

Mr. Joe Morgan 160 Rufus Morgan Road Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

<u>Location of Work</u>: Section 40, T10N-R7W, within the Red River Drainage Basin near Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana.

<u>Description of Work</u>: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to construct a 400-foot long boat dock/fishing pier complex along the right descending bank of Bayou Pierre near Natchitoches in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. The project would also consist of the construction of three concrete boat ramps and a parking area. The proposed complex would provide access for the public to the Red River for recreational activities.

The proposed project would require land clearing approximately 0.45 acre of riparian wetland along 400 feet of the lower bank of Bayou Pierre. The wetlands are described as scrub/shrub wetlands with scattered trees. After clearing, this bank would be sloped to provide access to the docks and then seeded for erosion control. The proposed concrete boat ramps would be 30 feet wide. One dock would be constructed as a floating dock approximately 4 feet wide and 150 feet long. The other 2 proposed structures would be linear fishing piers approximately 125 feet long. The parking lot would be constructed in nonwet pasture land. Most of the proposed work would occur within the ordinary highwater mark of a navigable stream. The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing and the placement of structures within a navigable waterway require a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

<u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any sites within Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana listed in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, the Corps archeologists, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required.

Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and advise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

. Harold Lee

Team Leader, Evaluation Section

Regulatory Branch



